

## THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

## VERSAILLES VS. WASHINGTON

It has been decided to hold the disarmament parley in Washington, D. C. The allied powers accepted the invitation of Pres. Harding for such a conference and thus our country has taken the initiative in the movement to end war in a sensible way.

The league of Nations meeting was held in Versailles, and all the business and discussions were carried on in the French language, which required a refuge of interpreters, despite the fact that practically all of the representatives could speak and understand the English language, and in spite of the fact that there are probably eight or ten English speaking people to every one who speaks French.

President Wilson and a committee appointed by him attended that conference. We sent over a whole shipload of attaches. It cost our government a round million dollars. Yet Robert Lansing, the best posted man of them all, makes the statement that he and all the rest of the Americans were kept in the dark as to the proceedings and could not even get a report of what was going on except as they got it from a French interpreter or newspaper man. The entire spirit of the conference was dominated by foreign interests and the interests of the United States were given little, if any, consideration. This statement is made upon the authority of Robert Lansing, who wrote a series of articles and a book upon the subject, and was summarily dismissed from the cabinet because he insisted that the rights of his country should be safe-guarded, and because his mind did not run along in the groove with that of the president.

There will be a notable difference in the parley held at Washington. All business and discussions will be carried on in the English language. The United States will be represented by our ablest statesmen. We will know what is going on all the time, without asking a foreigner to give us a hunch. The interests of the United States will be carefully safeguarded, and we will occupy a position in keeping with the greatness and importance of our country.

The United States has never been a warring country. Our history shows that we have always preferred the pursuits of peace. We have lived beside the Dominion of Canada for more than a hundred years in peace and harmony. Never in our history have we gone to war for conquest, but always in defense of our rights, after all other means of settlement failed. In the great struggle just closed, we spent billions and asked nothing in the way of territory or indemnity.

Compare this record with the history of European countries which are constantly at war with each other, fighting like cats and dogs, and grabbing from each other like pirates and highwaymen. As our country has been perpetually at peace with its neighbors, those countries have been perpetually at war. This comparison should convince the most skeptical that the place to hold a peace conference or disarmament parley is in Washington, and that the United States should lead in that convention instead of playing second fiddle as we did at the Versailles meeting.

## 1921 TRADE ANALYSIS

The official analysis of our foreign trade for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1921, shows clearly the effect of the world-wide trade depression that came as an aftermath of the war. Lower prices rather than diminished quantities are to a great extent responsible for the decrease in exports from eight billion in 1920 to six and a half billion dollars in 1921. For example, a compilation of exported commodities reduced, so far as possible, to a weight basis shows weight increases of 34 per cent for such partly or wholly manufactured articles as can be shown by weight. The final totals, including articles forming 69 per cent of the value of domestic exports in 1921, show a decrease in value of 19 per cent, but an increase in weight of 23 per cent compared with the preceding year. Department of Commerce figures are used.

Take cotton, for example: Nearly seven million bales exported in 1920 brought a little under \$1,400,000,000, while 5,400,000 bales exported this last year brought but \$650,000,000, or to express it in percentages, there was a decrease of 22 per cent in weight and of 57 per cent in value. We exported 252,000,000 pounds of dried fruits in 1920, valued at \$42,000,000, compared with 112,000,000 pounds in 1921, worth \$15,000,000. Here again we have a decrease of but 55 per cent, while the value fell off 180 per cent. Exports of glassware, glassware, hides, tinplate, leather goods, meat and dairy products, naval stores, lumber, and many other products show decreases in value out of all proportion to the decreases in volume; while there are certain articles which show an actual increase in volume and a decrease in value, comparing the two years. For example we exported 786,000,000 pounds of oilcake and meal in 1920, worth \$28,000,000, and 846,000,000 pounds in 1921, worth \$19,000,000; and of cottonseed oil we exported the preceding year 159,000,000 pounds worth \$36,000,000, compared with 283,000,000 pounds worth \$31,000,000 in 1921.

Aside from lower prices a number of other causes contributed to slowing up our export trade:

1. We no longer had a practical monopoly on supplying many kinds of merchandise demanded by foreign countries.
2. The devastated regions of Europe are again raising crops and are not so dependent on us for food supply. (This will doubtless be offset considerably this coming year by the demands from Russia).
3. Europe's pressing needs for raw materials have been considerably assuaged.
4. With exchange rates of foreign currencies depreciated to a point which made prices in dollars prohibitive, with declining imports, the impossibility of settling the balances already due the United States in gold, the difficulty of arranging further credit facilities, with cancellation of orders, rejection of goods already shipped, and collection drafts dishonored, it was impossible for exports to continue at the rate of \$500,000,000 to \$600,000,000 a month, to which they had grown during the war.

With Our State  
Contemporaries

## THE SERVICE OF CAPITAL

People with Bolshevik tendencies seem to think the time will come when workers of all industries will be able to dispense with the functions performed by capitalists, and secure for themselves the profits now taken by the owners of business. But they do not fully realize all the service that capital performs.

To operate an industry, funds must be provided to build a plant, buy modern tools and machinery, advance the money for raw materials and wages until funds can be sold and the money for the same collected. The majority of people can never save much money, even though they have large pay. So capital must be supplied by people who have ability to earn it, and also to save and keep it.

Furthermore, there is much risk in business. Many enterprises fail. If people are to venture their money in this uncertain field, where so much capital is all the time being lost, they will expect a fairly good return from it. If you limited them to the interest they could get in a bank or in government bonds, they would never put a dollar into business.

It would of course be possible for any group of workers to undertake to carry on a business of their own, and if they had a good manager they might make it pay. But most workers seem to prefer to take a fixed wage rather than take the chances of business for themselves.

Most of them seem to feel that their chances of good pay and regular work are better in a business run by capitalists. Those that feel that the capitalists' profit is unnecessary, should set up for themselves. If they have the ability to run a business, they can become independent of capitalists, or still better, graduate into that class themselves.—St. Johns News.

## NOT PLEASANT BUT TRUE

It is to be feared that Charles A. Wood of South Carolina, chairman of the judicial section of the American Bar association, did not strike an altogether popular chord when he said in connection with the prevalent disregard for the "dry" enactment: "When for the gratification of their appetites, lawyers, bankers, merchants, and manufacturers, and social leaders, both men and women, scoff at this law or any other law, they are aiding the cause of anarchy and promoting mob violence, robbery and homicide." But what Mr. Wood said is nevertheless the truth, even though it may be as unpleasant as near beer and grape juice to those whom he hits.

Today the real responsibility for the wholesale run-running and out-lawy resulting from it rests with the people who create the market, more than with the people who furnish the contraband goods. If the so-called "good-citizens," the respectable people would not buy, smuggling and bootlegging would soon sink to insignificant proportions. Its suppression would be a comparatively easy job for the federal and state authorities. And we may add that Mr. Wood does not in the least exaggerate when he says that these people are sowing dragons' teeth and that no judicial or police authority can save this country or humanity from the reaping.—Detroit Free Press.

State Is Now  
Marking Highways

Michigan is spending thousands of dollars this year in marking her trunk highways for the benefit of tourists.

Five new types of signs are being used in marking the roads, and only these signs are being permitted on the right of way. All road markers carrying advertising matter have been ordered down and those not already removed are being destroyed by the crews at work, remarking the roads. The lines are being marked every mile with a diamond shaped sign mounted on a steel post, bearing the number of the road. Such as M-11 or M-12. These posts will be numbered so that a tourist may not only know that he is on the right road, but may also keep track of the miles as has covered.

A new railroad crossing sign has been developed. The sign is about one yard square. A bright red cross-arm occupies the center of the warning board, with the word railroad at the top and crossing at the bottom in large letters. These warning signs will be placed 500 feet on both sides of railroad crossings which with the standard warning displayed by the railroads, will give double insurance against accidents to careful drivers.

A curve will be marked, and right angle curves will be given double markers. Approaching each curve will be a sign reading "Slow Curve" and a heavy red line, showing the direction of the curve, will be placed on the sign board. This sign will also be placed at right angle curves, with an additional sign telling whether the turn on the trunk is to be right or left. The appearance on the double sign will indicate a right angle and the single sign a wider turn.

For detours wooden signs are to be used with arrows pointing the way, and bearing the trunk number so as to make it impossible for the tourist to be lost. The same curve and right angle turn signs will be placed on the detours as on the main highways.

The subject being Cinderella, one little girl, an incontinent Carolyn Wells, wrote: "We learn that if her life did begin in a low, mental way, it ended in a hymeneal affair."

Modern Methods  
In Farming

East Lansing, Mich., Sept. 15.—Efficient production methods on the modern farm were illustrated in interesting fashion at the recent Detroit state fair. Booths prepared by the various departments of the Michigan Agricultural College were features of this part of the fair program, and attracted the attention of thousands of visitors who poured through the agricultural building each day.

A complete model farm, built in miniature by members of the college farm mechanics department, was one of the most popular features. Everything from a windmill that actually turned to the detailed fencing of fields was taken care of on the "table" farm.

"Old Red," a cow representing the Michigan average in production was housed in one corner of the agricultural building. To her left stood an M. A. C. Holstein with a record of 40 quarts a day milk production as compared with Red's 11 quart effort; and to the right stood a blooded Guernsey whose butter production figures were many times as large as those boasted by the average animal. Actual quarts of milk and pounds of butter above the stalls told the story of the difference in production graphically, showing the great possibilities for increased efficiency in Michigan dairy herds.

Horticulture, entomology, farm crops, soils, animal husbandry, botany, poultry, dairy products, engineering, farm management, forestry and home economics departments of the college were included in the displays, each having its own booth with a definite exhibit on some timely agricultural subject.

Weather and  
Crop Bulletin

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

Temperature much above the daily normal, precipitation generally light but well distributed with a high percentage of sunshine characterized the weather during the past week.

## GENERAL SUMMARY

Nearly ideal conditions prevailed for the prosecution of all farm work during the past week. Corn cutting and silo filling are half done; in the Upper Peninsula corn is well advanced but not out of frost danger. The general crop is good. Late potatoes still continue to improve but owing to their late start are not out of danger of early frost. Nearly all fall seeding has been done in the northern counties but is being delayed over the southern counties to avoid danger from the Hessian fly. Bean pulling is general over the Lower Peninsula; reports indicate the crop will not be as large as usual because of droughty conditions during the early stage of growth. The condition of sugar beets is reported as fair. There has been a big yield of fall garden truck, especially tomatoes which are unusually fine. Buckwheat is being harvested; the yield is good. Fall pastures continue to improve. Grapes are nearly all picked and the crop is light. Early apples are about gone; picking of late varieties has begun; the quality of the fruit is excellent, but the yield will be light because of late spring frost over the southern section of the state.

This is the last weekly crop bulletin of this season.

Alma Ten Years  
Ago This Week

The Alma Hotel, formerly known as the Fern, has been entirely renovated and decorated and is now under the management of Mr. and Mrs. John Ward.

The committee of ways and means of the city council recommended that the city council raise \$30,451.49 by taxation for the fiscal year. The council unanimously adopted the report.

Rev. J. Frank Jackson of the Episcopal church gave the opening address at Alma College, the subject being "What is Worth While." Alma College opened on September 12 with a good enrollment.

## WRIGHT SCHOOL

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lentz and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Trapp near Shepherd.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barnes of Alma were callers at Wesley Webb's Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ely Wolf were callers in thence last Thursday.

Miss Catherine Berry is absent from school on account of being ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Giles Isham and Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Webb attended the Sunday school convention at Alma Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hector Smith entertained their son and family from Saginaw the latter part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Metcalf attended the fair at Mt. Pleasant last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Munn returned home last Tuesday from a few day's visit in Flint.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Crist and children of Alma visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Archie Rodgers.

If it is something to be printed, we can print it. The Alma Record.—advertisement 10-3w

Hunter's Supplies. Lewis & Ellison's.—advertisement.

## The Open Forum

This Forum will accept communications up to 200 words in length on matters of community and county interest. Communications in regard to personal controversies, religious discussions and political disputes will not be accepted. All copy must be in not later than Tuesday and all communications must be signed.

## ONE OF TEN WONDERES

To the Editor:

Our good friend, the Rev. W. A. Phelps, D. D., who is well known in Alma and who is at present editor of the Michigan Christian Advocate makes the following remarks regarding our own beloved state and counts Gratiot County in as one of the ten wonders of the state:

"Michigan people are, as a rule, poor at bragging, never having lived in California, but we have whored to boast. We have four distinct seasons, three distinct times, two peninsulas and one Henry Ford, besides everything that other places have, plus Detroit. Our sin is the lack of appreciation of our own state. People go sky-larking over the world who have never seen the wonders of their own state."

"Here are ten tests of our knowledge of our own Michigan. 1. Have you sailed through the North Channel and across Lake Superior? 2. Have you motored up and down the East and West Pikes in sight of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan? 3. Have you ever gone up the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers into Huron, or down the Detroit River into Erie? 4. Have you visited Belle Isle? 5. Have you motored among the lakes of Oakland County? 6. Have you ever driven your car across the wilderness section of the U. P. from St. Ignace to the Sea? 7. Have you seen Marquette and Presque Isle and the iron country to the South of it? 8. Have you ever stood on Keweenaw peninsula in the Copper Country? 9. Have you ever crossed Gratiot County where the Lord put a double portion of soil fertility?"

F. E. West.

The Record can do your Job Printing—Call or telephone.

Record Directory  
FOR READY REFERENCE

## Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress  
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$10,000 more for chief clerk and White House expenses—\$200,000 in all, exclusive of personal expenses—President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$75,000. President his own of salary, Albert B. C. Caldwell, Iowa.  
Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett, of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 65th Congress and 455 Representatives of this country received \$7,500 salary each, with mileage when at 20 cents a mile each day, each member, based on distance between their home and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$25,000 a year for clock hire. Rank of representation, one member to each 211,842 population.  
Party Division in 67th Congress: House 201 Reps., 133 Dems., 1 For. Senate 59 Reps., 41 Dems.  
U. S. Senators—Claus E. Townsend, Truman H. Aldrich.  
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet  
Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec. of State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y., salary \$20,000; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa., salary \$12,000; War, Woodrow Wilson, N. J., salary \$12,000; Navy, Joseph D. Daniels, Conn., salary \$12,000; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. H., salary \$12,000; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa, salary \$12,000; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif., salary \$12,000; Justice, Edward D. White, La., salary \$12,000; Post Office, Joseph C. Gurnea, N. Y., salary \$12,000; Veterans Affairs, Charles E. Denebr, Ohio, salary \$12,000.  
The Supreme Court  
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$27,500. Associate Justices, salary \$12,000 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif., (Ret.); Oliver W. Holmes, Me. (Ret.); Wm. D. Day, Ohio (Ret.); Wm. Van Devanter, Wyo. (Ret.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Ret.); James McReynolds, Tenn. (Ret.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Ret.); John H. Clarke, Ohio (Ret.).

Michigan Government  
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary \$2,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Ford, salary \$1,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Edmond, salary \$2,000; State Treas., Frank E. Conner, salary \$2,000; Auditor Gen., Frank B. Fuller, salary \$2,000; Attorney Gen., Meritt Wilson, salary \$2,000; Sec. of Public Instruction, Thomas A. Johnston, salary \$2,000; State Highway Comm., Frank E. Rogers, salary \$2,000; Sec. of State, Charles J. Edmond, salary \$2,000; State Treas., Frank E. Conner, salary \$2,000; Auditor Gen., Frank B. Fuller, salary \$2,000; Attorney Gen., Meritt Wilson, salary \$2,000; Sec. of Public Instruction, Thomas A. Johnston, salary \$2,000; State Highway Comm., Frank E. Rogers, salary \$2,000; Sec. of State, Charles J. Edmond, salary \$2,000; State Treas., Frank E. Conner, salary \$2,000; Auditor Gen., Frank B. Fuller, salary \$2,000; Attorney Gen., Meritt Wilson, salary \$2,000; Sec. of Public Instruction, Thomas A. Johnston, salary \$2,000; State Highway Comm., Frank E. 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